

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 2, 2004

Bush Visits Campus Friday



Left: Marshall President Dan Angel welcomes President George W. Bush Friday. Center: President Bush addresses the crowd. Right: Approximately 150 persons appeared on stage during the event.

President George W. Bush made a brief visit to Marshall's Huntington campus Friday morning to discuss job training with an invited audience.

The audience members were selected from among local community leaders and Marshall faculty, staff and students.

"Without question, this was a huge honor for Marshall University," President Dan Angel said. "However brief the president's visit, it was a memorable event for the university community."

PEIA Open Enrollment Starts April 5

PEIA's annual open enrollment period begins April 5 and runs through May 7, according to Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resource Services. During that period participants can change health insurance plans; add and/or remove dependents; add or reduce optional life insurance coverage; and add or cancel various Mountaineer Flexible Benefits which include dental, vision, flexible spending accounts, short or long-term disability insurance.

The **Tobacco Affidavit and Open Enrollment Transfer Form** will be mailed to home addresses. The combination form is used for changing plans or making changes in family information as well as declaring tobacco usage. Information is also included in the **Shopper's Guide** which details each health plan, including various plan rates, co-pays and out-of-pocket maximums.

If open enrollment information is not received by April 10, participants can call the helpline at 1-877-676-5573.

"All policyholders have to submit Tobacco Affidavits for Plan Year 2005 even if they are not making any changes to their health and life insurance cover-

age," Stephens says. Current employees must have been tobacco-free as of February 1, 2004 to qualify for a discount on the PPB health and optional life insurance premiums.

Stephens says several changes have taken place over the past year. CompBenefits (CompDent) is being cancelled by Mountaineer Flexible Benefits effective June 30, 2004, and Carelink (HMO) plans have undergone significant changes.

"Please note that current Carelink members must make a plan choice or they will default into the PEIA PPB Plan A," said Stephens.

Several PEIA Benefit Fairs have been scheduled for various locations around the state. Sites nearest to Marshall University campuses are:

- Charleston, Monday April 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., State Capitol Complex, Building 7 Conference Center Corridor, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, and
- Charleston Civic Center, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Parlor B, 200 Civic Center Drive
- Huntington, Monday, April 19, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Marshall University, Memorial Student Center,

(continued on page 4)

Ohio Valley Cello Festival Premieres April 9

The first Ohio Valley Cello Festival will take place on the Huntington campus April 9. Organizers, including Dr. Solen Dikener, a faculty member in the department of Music, say it will bring together regional cellists along with others who want an opportunity to learn more about the instrument renowned for its quality of sound and classical music in general.

"I'd like to make Marshall known as a place where you can have intensive string studies," Dikener told the *Huntington Herald-Dispatch*. "Normally (cellists) would have to travel to some major metropolitan area to attend an event like this."

The festival will feature Owen Carman, director of the Meadowmount School of Music in Westport, N.Y. Carman will give a free concert at 4 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall which will be followed by a performance of two original works by West Virginia

Evans to Give Biology Lecture April 6

Dr. Dan Evans, Professor of Biological Sciences, will make a presentation about plant life associated with riparian and wetland habitats along the Kanawha River to members of the Biology Club April 6 from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 203 of Science Hall. The session is open to members of the campus community as well.

Evans says 60 sites along 90 river miles were surveyed and the flora analyzed for species considered rare, invasive, whether native or non-native, and wetland status.

According to Evans, "This allows a picture of floristic quality, a valuable tool in plant and habitat management and conservation. The objectives of the study also include describing degraded habitat, particularly wetlands that have the potential to be restored to near-natural conditions."

composers, one of them a Marshall faculty member, which were written especially for the festival.

Marshall faculty member Mark Zanter-Fox's "Five Movements for Cello Ensemble" will be performed and another original piece, "Alla Marcia," composed by Bernard Di Gregorio, a member of the viola section of the West Virginia Symphony, will also be heard.

Cellists from colleges, universities and high schools in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky have been invited to participate in the festival.

The cello is known for its clear, wide-ranging sound. "It's one of the most beloved instruments because the quality of its sound is one of the closest to the human voice," Dikener said.

Psychology Conference Set for April 8

The 13th annual Tri-state Psychology Conference is being held at Marshall on April 8 with all events taking place in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Students in the Marshall chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in Psychology, and the Psychology Club are organizing the conference.

In addition to the two student groups, support for the conference is coming from faculty and staff of the department of Psychology, the North American Association of Masters in Psychology (NAMP), and the College of Liberal Arts, according to Dr. Pamela Mulder, Associate Professor of Psychology.

Approximately 25 posters, addressing such topics as developmental psychology and clinical psychology, will be on display. Students, faculty and staff are invited to view the posters and attend the presentations.

The schedule of events includes:

- 9 a.m. – Welcoming remarks from Dr. Sarah Denman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 9 a.m. to noon – Poster sessions with approximately 40 students participating..
- 1-2:30 p.m. – Keynote speaker Jim Livingood, a psychologist with the U.S. Navy, will speak on issues of importance to master's-level psychologists, and he will also discuss careers in the military and in homeland security for psychologists.
- 3-5 p.m. – Six oral presentations will be given.

In addition to Marshall participants, faculty and staff members are expected to attend from West Virginia University, the University of Charleston, Mountain State University, Concord College, Frostburg State University (Maryland), Morehead

(continued on page 4)

We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of April 16, 2004.

Deadline is April 9, 2004. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.



Profile: Edwina Pendarvis

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Edwina Pendarvis

Her latest book of poetry is peopled with the successful and famous as well as the tragically doomed, weaving stories of everyday people and their everyday problems across two continents—in many ways so different, in many ways so much the same.

For Dr. Edwina Pendarvis, a professor of Special Education who works with gifted and talented programs in rural areas of West Virginia, her most recent book, *Like the Mountains of China*, moves back and forth from the mountains and culture of China to the hills and traditions of Appalachia.

The title of the book came as a result of a trip to China several years ago. "I went on the trip with other Marshall people and loved China," Pendarvis says. "I felt so at home. This book of poetry explores the connections between people. We have a lot in common with people living today around the world, as well as those from the past. I took the title from a poem in my first book, 'The mountains here look like the mountains of China.'"

She's a product of Appalachia, having spent her childhood in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. As the book jacket of *Like the Mountains of China* notes, she draws upon Appalachian experiences in her writing, in her teaching at Marshall and in her work as associate editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. Her first collection of poetry, published along with two other poets in *Joy Ride*, also was a celebration of her Appalachia heritage.

Although Pendarvis has been on the faculty for 24 years, her association with Marshall actually began when as a six-year old she attended the university's lab school while her mother, a teacher, took summer classes. She was shy, and wasn't happy to be on campus when she was six, but as an adult, she taught part-time here and the experience was such a good one that, after going back to school to complete her doctorate, she never considered applying for a job anywhere else.

She has an undergraduate degree in English and a master's degree in Special Education from the University of South Florida, as well as a doctorate in special education from the University of Kentucky. She is the coauthor of three books on gifted education and has written extensively on that topic. At Marshall she teaches classes on the

(continued on page 4)

Preece Named Career/Technical Educator of the Year

Homer Preece, Director of the Marshall Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant, has received the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award at the Region I Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo held recently in Orlando, Fla. He was selected from applicants in 14 states and Washington, D.C.

Preece taught business education at the high school and college levels before moving to his current position. He also serves as higher education facilitator for Mason County schools.

In addition to other duties at MOVC, he has established associate degree programs in business management and health information technology. He has served as higher education facilitator for nine years, the first position of its kind to be established in West Virginia. As facilitator for the dual credit program and master degree programs, Preece, among other duties, schedules courses and is responsible for contracting with faculty.

The MOVC has received a federal technology grant for \$245,000, enabling the center to upgrade the nursing lab for the BSN program, put in a wireless computer system, add another interactive classroom and upgrade computers.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Jennifer Y. Mak and **Dr. Jean-Claude Martin** of the Division of Exercise Science, Sport and Recreation, together with Dr. Bart Cagle of Tennessee, are presenting a paper, "Students' Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes" at the 2004 National Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in New Orleans, March 30 to April 3. In addition, Mak will present two other papers, "Leisure and Recreation Service Quality of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong," and "The Physiological Profile and Sport Participation Motives of Older Adults in Hong Kong" with Dr. Sui-Yin Cheung from Hong Kong Baptist University and Joyce Chan from the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong.

Dr. Carl Johnson and **Dr. James Sottile** of the School of Education and graduate student Myron Bailey presented several papers at the 2004 annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) in Clearwater, Fla. Sottile and Johnson presented a research paper, "The characteristics of effective teachers: implication on student development." Bailey and Sottile presented a research paper, "Pre-service teachers' attitudes and beliefs toward students of same gender orientation: a reflection on student development."

Edwina Pendarvis

from Page 3

talented and gifted and works closely with rural counties in the state, particularly McDowell County, primarily to develop methods of identifying gifted children, research which was partially supported by a Drinko Fellowship award during the 2001-2002 school year.

Much of her work in the field centers on helping school administrators find ways of identifying children who can qualify for gifted programs. That's not always an easy task she says.

"Right now I'm working with McDowell County to try to improve their methods of finding really bright students, many of whom are poor or come from culturally different backgrounds," she relates. Although more distance learning activities are scheduled for the future, she still regularly drives to many of the outlying areas. And fortunately she loves to travel.

"I really don't mind the traveling," she says. "In fact, when the weather's good, I kind of like driving around the rural areas."

Her teaching duties at Marshall, her commitment to the gifted program and the traveling it entails, and her professional writing and research don't leave much time for discretionary activities but she manages to find time to write poetry almost every day, even if it's just a few lines.

And it was a bit of serendipity that she found her voice for poetry at all. Seeking a way to liven up her professional writing, she hit upon the idea of taking a writing course and a whole new creative path opened for her.

"I took the course so my professional writing wouldn't be so boring in its tone," she explains candidly. "I thought a writing course could make my technical writing livelier. Then I found I liked poetry so much I kept writing it."

Her lyrical gift has been recognized and praised by others as her poems have been published, singly and then collected in books. Her first book of poems, *Coruscations*, won the 1995 West Virginia Writers' Competition. One reviewer praised her "fresh, unpredictable approach to Appalachia and its people."

A lot of her poetry is set in Appalachia and "when people say I'm an Appalachia poet, I'm okay with that," she says agreeably.

As much as she enjoys writing poetry, she does a good bit of prose writing as well. She frequently composes essays and in fact has just had an article published on Jennie Wiley, known for her escape through the wilderness that was this region after being kidnapped by Indians. Published in *Now and Then* magazine, the article is a comparison of similarities of the public interest in the 18th-century Wiley and the contemporary Jessica Lynch.

"Both were Appalachian women who were involved in escapes after being captured. I compared reasons for the popularity of the Jessica story with the reasons for the original and continuing popularity of the Jenny Wiley story."

Another of her great interests is the Appalachian Studies Association, which was formerly located at West

Virginia University but currently is housed at Marshall. As the associate editor for the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, she's delighted the ASA has found a home in Huntington.

"It puts us in touch with other scholars throughout the United States and in other countries. It's an interdisciplinary association, and it is for both professional and lay people who are interested in cultural studies, history, and science related to the region."

Like most faculty members, she spends a great deal of time reading. "I love to read. I spend a lot of time reading and writing, both for my job or just for pleasure." But she does manage to eke some time out for a favorite past-time. For a change of pace and some vigorous exercise, she takes tap dancing lessons. "Dancing is for fun, for relaxation," she says with an easy laugh.

She likes being able to spend time with her mother, Marionette Burgess, who is now retired from teaching, and her cousins John and Scott Stapleton, all of whom live in Huntington. And then there is visiting with her daughter Penny, a graduate of Marshall University's Biology department, and with her son Damon, who is a computer software developer.

And right now she's starting work on yet another book, this one on gifted children in rural areas like the Appalachian region.

"So many people have jobs that they don't like. I'm lucky to have one that I do enjoy. And one of the most rewarding things is to hear of students who have had success. I'm glad I'm here."

PEIA Open Enrollment

from Page 1

room 2W16, and

- Big Sandy Superstore Arena, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Conference Center Wing, Dogwood Room, One Civic Center Plaza, Third Ave. at Eighth Street

PEIA representatives will be available to answer questions during the benefit fairs, however all forms related to open enrollment must be completed, signed and submitted to Human Resource Services in 207 Old Main. Human Resources Services will be unable to accept and process any open enrollment documents after 5 p.m, Friday, May 7, 2004, Stephens emphasizes.

Additional information about open enrollment will be included in an upcoming *We Are Marshall!* newsletter.

Psychology Conference

from Page 2

State University (Kentucky), Somerset Community College and the University of Rio Grande (Ohio).

Admission to the conference is free. To register, e-mail Pamela Mulder at mulder@marshall.edu.